The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1042. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1931 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 3.

Anxiety never yet successfully bridged over any chasm.—Ruffini.

6,050,000 WORKLESS, JANUARY, THIS YEAR

Washington, March 28.—There were 6,050,000 able bodied persons in this country out of work, and seeking employment, the latter part of January, this year, according to figures released by the Census Bureau.

This estimate is based on the Census Bureau's special count of unemployed that started January 15 in 19 of the larger cities. A house-to-house canvas was made by 4,700 enumerators.

The 6,050,000 unemployed did not include persons having jobs but who are laid off without pay. Workers laid off have no income, but they were not in this count.

Members of Congress declare that the figure reveals the necessity for an extra session.

Senator Wheeler said: "If these official figures had been known before Congress adjourned on March 4 the session would not have ended without doing something for general relief."

Mr. Wheeler added that Congress might have adopted either his program appropriating $100,000,000 for relief, or the plan of Senator Walsh (Mass.) to use a like sum in connection with appropriations for States.

Secretary of Commerce Lamont, before sailing to Bermuda for a vacation, expressed gratification that "conditions are getting no worse."

"Of course," he continued, "I am an optimist that the ranks of those out of work will be reduced—one must be an optimist over such a condition."

A week before the Census Bureau count started, the chairman of the President's Employment Committee announced that the number of unemployed was "between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000."

Prior to this statement lower estimates were periodically made.

None of these estimates include farm laborers and persons that officials refused to classify as "unemployed" those who have a job, but who are laid off.

U. S. BUREAU RESISTS STATE MINIMUM WAGE

Madison, Wis., March 28.—Gov. La Follette's effort to establish a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for laborers on State road work may be nullified or Wisconsin may lose its annual $3,000,000 Federal aid road appropriation.

The Wisconsin Highway Commission, at the request of Gov. La Follette, will insist that contractors on road work shall base estimates on a minimum of 40 cents an hour for laborers.

"Failure to observe these regulations," the resolution declares, "will remove such contractor from the approved list of contractors."

The United States Bureau of Public Roads is opposed to the Wisconsin plan and has forwarded this telegram to the State Highway Commission:

"The Federal Road Bureau is opposed to insertion of minimum wage stipulations on Federal aid projects. Would favor wage provisions in community where work is performed."

"The opposition expressed in this telegram," says the Capital Times, "constitutes a threat to the present successful establishment of the 40-cent per hour minimum on Wisconsin road projects which receive Federal aid.

"If this opposition becomes active, Wisconsin will either be forced to abolish its minimum wage requirement, now included in road contracts, or lose its annual $3,000,000 Federal aid appropriation. The former would nullify Gov. La Follette's efforts, which have been successful, and the latter would wreck Wisconsin's highway program."

STATE COMPENSATION URGED BY UNIONISTS

Boston, March 28.—Members of the State Legislature are urged to vote for State workmen's compensation by the Massachusetts Federation of Labor.

The unionists declare that employers should care for injured workers "without the penalty of paying millions of dollars each year into the coffers of profit-making insurance companies."

TO DISCUSS WAGE CUTS

Jackson, Tenn., March 28.—Attempted wage cuts in this State will be discussed at the annual convention Tennessee Federation of Labor, which convenes in this city on May 4. Other subjects will include unemployment, the shorter work day and political conditions.

TWO SHIPOWNERS' PLANS COMPARED

Siren and Shipping of London, England, prints the following editorial concerning seamen's wages:

"Rumors have been current for some time that shipowners were contemplating a reduction in seamen's wages. There is, however, no such intention. The proposal has been definitely ruled out. No matter how desirable the lowering of costs may be, there is a general consensus of opinion that no steps should be taken to upset conditions that have existed for a long time between the representatives of seamen's unions and shipowners."

It is gratifying to note that British shipowners are always ready to foster harmonious relations with seamen.

American shipowners do not take the seamen into their confidence when a reduction of wages is contemplated. The shipowners issue an executive order that on and after such a date wages will be reduced.

Some of the bright boys who live off the shipping industry and call themselves experts in industrial relations are pleased to call this system "the American plan."

The difference between "the American plan" and the British plan is this:

Under "the American plan" no agreement exists. Wages, hours of labor and conditions of employment are arbitrarily fixed by the employer.

Under the British plan wages, hours of labor and working conditions are fixed by agreement between employers and the trade union.—Seamen's Journal.

LOW WAGES CAN'T REMOVE DEPRESSION CAUSE

One of the largest business statistical institutions in the country (Standard Statistics Co. of New York) makes this observation:

"Ultimately, we look for a realignment to the relative balance of the pre-depression status on a permanently lower basis of dollar values. Living costs should then give wage earners command of at least as large a volume of goods as formerly."

This company does not indulge in propaganda. It interprets trends in business.

Workers should note that lower living costs "should" give them "command of at least as large a volume of goods as formerly."

There is no intimation that living standards before the depression will be raised—or even held.

Under this plan the forces that caused the present depression will continue to operate. Automatic machinery and mergers will displace workers with increasing speed. As more wealth is created workers are informed that they "should"—not "will"—have a purchasing power "at least" equal to pre-depression standards.

The controllers of wealth have learned no lesson. Their sole objective is to get out of the present slump and ignore the future.

Their plea for methods to compile lists of unemployed for use in the "next depression"—as the New Hampshire Unemployment Emergency Committee recommends—indicates their refusal to face facts.

Their position is identical to public officials during a typhoid epidemic, who are interested in compiling the number of deaths rather than removing the cause of the scourge.

The depression cause and its removal should be the Nation's major issue.

Every alleged remedy should be subjected to the acid test: How will this increase the people's purchasing power, and how will it place more workers in employment by shortening hours?

Lowering wages as living costs drop is no solution. This is the bread basket theory that would maintain a rigid standard of life for wage earners.

The bread basket theory ignores constant displacement of workers by automatic machinery, chain stores and farm corporations.

These forces centralize wealth and enlarge the unemployed army. If the bread basket standard is accepted, man's development ceases and the depression cause is untouched.

The inevitable result will be that our next "good-times" cycle will be shortened and our next business depression will be more acute.

HOW INCOMES ARE JUGGLED

Bethlehem Steel Corporation stockholders are attempting to defeat a bonus system by which millions of dollars have been secretly handed to officials of that concern.

The Bethlehem board of directors, since 1917, voted $31,878,255 out of the treasury. Annual reports and earnings statements made no reference to these funds which, stockholders declare, could not be discovered "by the most astute analyst."

The secret grab was revealed in a court fight over the proposed merger of Bethlehem and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company.

This concealment of nearly $32,000,000 from "the most astute analyst" should be recalled by trade unionists when they are expected to accept annual statements of large corporations as an index of earnings and profits.

PARTY SYSTEM HAS COLLAPSED; INTELLECT AND SERVICE URGED

Berkeley, Cal., March 28.—"Our political party system has collapsed," said Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University, in an address at the annual charter day of the University of California.

"Party ideals have been blown sky high," he said. "We keep on using the names and following the forms of party organization and party difference, but we are only playing with labels without anything upon which to put them."

Dr. Butler asserted that "complacency and self-satisfaction, coupled with too little knowledge, take high rank among our national traits." Unhappiness and need, he said, "are the natural and almost necessary forerunners of revolution, whether peaceful or violent."

The educator declared we are "bending the knee in worship to the golden calf of money."

"The United States is in sore need today of an aristocracy of intellect and service. A democracy must provide itself with a foil of its own and none is better or more effective than an aristocracy of intellect and service recruited from every part of our democratic life.

"What confronts our country is not alone the desirability, but the stern necessity, of getting rid of shams and of bringing ourselves and our government face to face with the realities of the life of today.

"Upon our willingness and capacity to do this depends the future of those institutions, of that system of social order, of thought and of civilization, which have been writing the history of the world since the days of ancient Rome and Greece and which brought into existence that country which is the center of our affections, our pride and our hope."

GOVERNMENT WHEAT CLOGS WAREHOUSES

Washington, March 28.—How will the government dispose of its 200,000,000 bushels of wheat that the Federal Farm Board bought in a futile attempt to hold wheat prices?

This question is being discussed by Washington officials.

There are two problems connected with the wheat issue: How to dispose of this grain without a loss to the government, and how can it be disposed of without jamming the 1931 market.

The Department of Agriculture has called for drastic reduction in this year's wheat planting if a congested market is to be avoided. If government wheat is thrown on the market disaster is predicted.

Added to this problem is the millions of bushels of privately-owned wheat that has been left over from last year.

The Federal Farm Board has abandoned the plan to buy wheat in an effort to hold prices. The scheme has failed and the board notifies farmers that the only way to hold prices is to produce less.

STATE CHILDREN'S CARE CAUSED BY DEPRESSION

Albany, N. Y., March 28.—The marked increase in the number of children cared for by the State is a direct reflection of the economic depression, according to a report of the State Board of Social Welfare.

At the end of 1930 there were 80,000 children under care in institutions and family homes throughout the State, of whom 45,000 were cared for in their own homes on mothers' allowances and 10,000 boarded in family homes.

WAGE CONTRACTS RENEWED

Cleveland, March 28.—Organized carpenters and building laborers renewed wage agreements with employers. There will be no change in rates or working conditions.

WIRE MEN STRIKE

Atlanta, Ga., March 28.—The Georgia Power Company discriminates against organized electrical workers and several hundred of these unionists throughout the State suspended work.

SATURDAY HOLIDAY EQUALS FOUR HOURS

Washington, March 28.—The Saturday half holiday, which Federal employes now have under a new law, will be counted as four hours, instead of as a full day in computing annual leave, according to an opinion rendered by the Attorney General.

In computing sick leave the Saturday half holiday will be counted as a full day. The 44-hour week law was passed by the last Congress.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Brunswick, Ga., March 28.—The annual convention of the Georgia Federation of Labor will convene here on Wednesday, April 15.

Daniel Davenport, Attorney, Dies; Defended Many Anti-Union Cases

Bridgeport, Conn., March 28.—Daniel Davenport, leading counsel for anti-union employers in a labor generation, recently died at his home in this city at the age of 79.

He led the fight against organized labor in the famous Danbury hatters' case. The hatters boycotted the Loewe hat concern at Danbury because of its refusal to recognize the union. Several injunctions were issued against the workers' alleged interference with interstate commerce. These writs were sustained by the Federal Supreme Court and the hatters were sued in a court of law for triple damages under the Sherman anti-trust law. Judgment totaling more than a quarter of a million dollars was secured. The money was raised by the A. F. of L. While the workers' homes were saved, the decision stands.

Loewe died several years ago. The fight caused his financial ruin and the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association raised a purse for him in his declining years.

Davenport also represented employers in the famous Buck's Stove and Range Company case, which led to contempt proceedings and jail sentences against Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and John Mitchell, president, secretary and vice president A. F. of L. The sentences were finally dismissed by the Supreme Court on a technicality, but this decision also stands as a precedent for injunction seeking employers.

Davenport was counsel for the Anti-Boycott Association, which changed its name to League for Industrial Rights when the Versailles treaty, following the World War, accepted the boycott—or non-intercourse—as a weapon against nations.

GOVERNMENT THEORY DEFENDED

The New Hampshire Supreme Court outlawed an old age pension act on the ground that it improperly provides for administration of relief by probate courts, thus delegating an executive function to the judicial branch of government.

The court did not oppose the principle of old age pensions, but held that such legislation must be carried out by the executive branch, and not by judges.

Union of the powers of governmental department, the court pointed out, may justly be "pronounced the very definition of tyranny," to use Madison's language, or, in the words of Jefferson, "is precisely the definition of despotic government."

The Supreme Court's position is identical to organized labor's position on the labor injunction.

When an equity judge issues a labor injunction he usurps government by law. He steps into the lawmaking and executive fields.

When this fact is understood by the people, equity courts will be stripped of their power to wander into other fields of government.

The people will eventually realize that the labor injunction does more than break strikes. It undermines our theory of government.

UNEMPLOYED RELIEF URGED BY WORKERS

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 28.—A trade unions mass meeting, called by the Central Labor Council, indorsed the State Federation of Labor's unemployed relief program. The plan provides for a State appropriation of $10,000,000.

Phillip Murray, vice president United Mine Workers of America, declared that an examination of conditions in this county "reveals the inadequacy of local relief organizations to meet the situation.

"Here is a condition where thousands of men and women willing to work cannot find employment of any kind," said the miners' official. "The fury of the dole system is going to be used to keep food out of the mouths of our starving people."

John A. Phillips, president State Federation of Labor, said that the A. F. of L. recognized trends toward present conditions as far back as 1925 and warned employers that purchasing power must be increased.

"That warning was disregarded," said President Phillips, "and now we are in the midst of the greatest crisis in our history. President Hoover, late in 1929, called in industrial leaders, employers and union representatives and employers agreed to discontinue wage reductions. Yet there have been more wage reductions since that meeting than at any other time during the past 10 years."

BRITISH LABOR PARTY DOUBLES WELSH VOTE

London, March 28.—The Labor Party doubled its 1929 majority in an "off" election at Pontypridd, a mining section 20 miles from Cardiff, Wales.

The Liberal vote dropped to such proportions that it has alarmed leaders of that party.

Pontypridd was the scene of the famous Taff Vale decision, 30 years ago, which resulted in the formation of the present Labor party.

Railroads in the Taff Vale Railroad, that runs in the Taff river valley, suspended work.

The company sued the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants and individual members for $150,000 damages. The House of Lords, England's highest court, held for the company. Trade union agitation secured legislation that exempted trade unions from damages, because of their character as a voluntary association.

PENNY PINCHING HARMS POST OFFICE SERVICE

Washington, March 28.—"Post office efficiency is being destroyed by Postmaster General Brown's curtailment of delivery service," said Congressman Kendall of Pennsylvania.

The lawmaker, for 12 years a member of the House Post Office Committee, said reports show that mail service is poorer than at any period in recent years.

"The postal service is the life blood of the nation and it should not be curtailed for any cause," said Mr. Kendall. "This service should not be considered from the standpoint of postal deficits or revenues, but because of its daily contact with every section of the country it is the duty of congress and also to give the best possible service."

STUDY OF INSURANCE FOR JOBLESS BEGUN

Washington, March 28.—A Senate committee to study unemployment insurance will begin hearings on March 31. The committee was created on resolution by Senator Wagner of New York. Private plans and government systems abroad will be investigated.

Members of the committee are Senators Wagner, Glenn (Ill.) and Hebert (R. I.).

COAL MINING DEADLY

Harrisburg, Pa., March 28.—One life was lost for every 160,000 tons of anthracite coal mined in this State last year.

Green Lists Social Laws by Last Congress

Washington, March 28.—Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in a letter to all affiliates, lists legislation of interest to workers passed by the Seventy-first Congress, that adjourned March 4.

Favorable bills that were vetoed and those that failed to pass are also listed, as unfavorable bills that were defeated through opposition of labor.

The favorable legislation includes:

Prevailing rates of wages on public contracts.

Saturday half-holiday for more than 450,000 Federal employes.

Advance planning for public works to be constructed during depression.

Four-hour day on Saturday for 150,000 postal employes.

Creation of a Department of Labor in Porto Rico.

Extension of provisions of the vocational and rehabilitation act to Porto Rico.

Retirement act for Panama Canal employes.

Increase in wages for employes in the customs service.

Appropriating additional $500,000 to increase the border immigration patrol.

Appropriation of nearly a billion dollars for public works and highways.

Appropriation of $175,000 to collect complete statistics of changes in employment, total wages paid and total hours of employment in service of Federal government, States and political subdivisions thereof.

Modernization of three battleships in government navy yards and arsenals.

Requiring all work on 11 new destroyers, costing $51,700,000, to be done in navy yards and arsenals when it does not appreciably cost more than by contract. Ten million dollars voted to begin construction.

Extra compensation for overtime by employes of immigration service.

Books for adult blind.

Appropriating an additional $500,000 for improving Federal Employment Service.

Increase of $200 in wages for locomotive, Bureau of Safety and hours of service inspectors.

Because of congestion in the Senate, Senator Norris and other senatorial friends of labor recommended that no effort be made in the last session to press pending anti-injunction bill. This measure will be urged at the next session.

The Wagner employment agencies bill and government operation of Muscle Shoals were vetoed. A bill providing for widening the jury in Federal courts passed the House but was not acted on by the Senate. A jury trial is guaranteed by the Constitution and labor will insist upon its retention.

An increase of $100 per year for 920 underpaid village letter carriers was vetoed. Maternity and infancy bills passed both houses but final action by the Senate was delayed because a filibuster blocked discussion of amendments.

The Lehlbach bill, that would stop bootlegging of aliens, under the guise of "seamen" passed the Senate but trickery in the House prevented a vote. Congressman Free of California gave great assistance to shipowners in this fight.

Labor failed to have Congress prohibit importation of goods manufactured wholly or in part by convict, forced or indentured labor.

The Senate voted a cleared channel to labor's broadcasting station WCFL, Chicago, but House action failed because of dilatory tactics by Congressman White, chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

GOVERNMENT OF INSURANCE FOR JOBLESS BEGUN

Washington, March 28.—A Senate committee to study unemployment insurance will begin hearings on March 31. The committee was created on resolution by Senator Wagner of New York. Private plans and government systems abroad will be investigated.

Members of the committee are Senators Wagner, Glenn (Ill.) and Hebert (R. I.).

COAL MINING DEADLY

Harrisburg, Pa., March 28.—One life was lost for every 160,000 tons of anthracite coal mined in this State last year.

WILL EMPLOYMENT FIGURES LESSEN NEXT BUSINESS SAG?

Concord, N. H., March 28.—Accurate figures on unemployment can forestall "serious conditions" in the next business depression, said the Unemployment Emergency Committee of New Hampshire in a report to Governor Winant.

The committee says there is a noticeable resentment by the average citizen that America, along with its industrial development, has failed to make provision against "such extreme conditions" as have prevailed the past year.

There is no reference in the report to causes of business depressions and the need for higher purchasing power and shorter hours to take up the unemployed slack.

The committee's solution for "the next depression" is to make an accurate count of unemployed. There is no suggestion of remedies for "future depression" after this data is secured. The figures, it is stated, will serve as "a basis for comparisons."

"While conditions have been severe," the committee states, "their exact degree of seriousness has undoubtedly been exaggerated for want of reliable information. Lacking the facts, there has been fear, which always exaggerates and leads to hysteria, hampering an orderly recovery."

SLICK BOOKKEEPING HIDES BONUS PAID FAVORED STEEL "INSIDERS"

New York, March 28.—The Bethlehem Steel Corporation was so clever in concealing $31,800,000 secretly voted to officials that the money could not be discovered by "the most astute analyst."

This statement is contained in a letter forwarded to 80,000 stockholders by a committee who ask that they be permitted to vote in opposition to the secret bonus system at the annual meeting of the company on April 14.

"The amount of the bonuses is most unseemly and improper," the committee states. "The president, Mr. Grace, it now appears, received in the year 1929 a bonus of $1,625,753, and in the year 1930 a bonus of $1,015,591. During the period (1917-1930) in which these bonuses for executive officers were voted, amounting up to the close of 1928, there has been taken out of the corporate treasury for this purpose $31,878,255, as against $40,886,996 paid to common stockholders.

"In the four years 1925-1928, inclusive, more than a dollar of dividends was paid to common stockholders, $6,800,524 in bonuses was paid to these few favored directors and other executives. The president (Grace) alone took $3,105,963 as bonuses during these years. Although the company in 1930 failed to earn its dividend it nevertheless paid a bonus of $1,015,591 in that year to its president."

Charles M. Schwab, chairman board of directors, publicly defended these bonuses. The committee says Schwab's statement is "far removed from the truth."

Stockholders have started a suit in the Newark (N. J.) Federal District Court to recover these funds. The committee was forced to secure a court order compelling the officers to give them a list of stockholders.

The secret bonuses were exposed at the recent court suit in Youngstown, Ohio, that blocked a proposed merger of the Bethlehem concern with Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company.

RELIEF PLEAS GROW

New York, March 28.—The number of applications in this State for relief under the old age security law has passed the 50,000 mark, according to the State Board of Social Welfare.

"SAFETY OF POPULACE IS THE HIGHEST LAW"

Little Rock, Ark., March 28.—The $1,500,000 bond issue, recently passed by the Arkansas General Assembly to relieve drought-stricken farmers, has been upheld by the State Supreme Court by a 4-to-3 vote.

The decision is based on the theory that "the safety of the people is the highest law."

Plaintiffs insisted that the State Constitution forbade the State to lend its credit for any purpose whatever and prohibits diversion of tax funds to other purposes.

The court said it had previously refused to take the narrow view that the credit of the State can not be pledged for any purpose and cited examples of the State's credit being utilized for the promotion of the general welfare of the State.

"While the private resources of the citizens of this State are exhausted," the court said, "the credit of the State itself is not, and to say, because of a narrow and scholastic interpretation of our Constitution, that the State is unable itself to give what measure of relief it can, is a contention to which we cannot assent. We think the need great and the means for its relief but a use of the credit of the State for its own protection, as, protecting its citizens from famine and disease, it protects itself, and the aid extended is for a public purpose.

"The protection of its citizens from danger of whatever kind is the duty of the State and in this case the means is but a valid exercise of the police power and the means employed finds ample justification in the maxim, 'the safety of the people is the highest law'."

DEPENDENT CHILDREN GIVEN BETTER CARE

Washington, March 28.—Greater attention is being given to dependent children by the American people, according to Miss Grace Abbott, chief of the Federal Children's Bureau.

More than $32,400,000 is being annually expended for these children, said Miss Abbott.

State and municipal aid to mothers and the family, the increasing economic opportunities of a mother to earn a living when the family support is withdrawn, and other social factors tend to fasten the ideal of safeguarding the home and family integration.

The trend of social thinking toward the preservation of the home through institution and foster care is an illustration of the general movement toward a scientific approach to the problems of the child, said Miss Abbott.

WORKERS' ILLNESS IS COSTLY

Had 20 men began work at the dawn of the Christian era and worked continuously, passing on their labor to another 20, and these in turn to others, on down through the ages, they would just now be making up the time lost as the result of industrial accidents in Ohio in the single year of 1930.

As incredible as this may seem, the record is still better than that of the preceding year, when it would have taken the labor of almost three more men to accomplish the same result.

While this tremendous waste of productive capacity is sufficient to startle even the most unimaginative, it is but a drop in the bucket compared with the loss of time due to sickness of workers.

A large iron and steel corporation with its central mill located in Ohio and which is keenly alive to the physical welfare of its employes, kept tab of the sickness and accidents of months and discovered that, for every day lost as the result of accidents, 30 days were lost by reason of illness. Apply this ratio of 30 to 1 to the picture of a score of men laboring since the birth of Christiandom and we have a stable plant working full time all through the centuries to make up the waste due to accidents and illness in Ohio in a single year.—Thomas F. Kearns, superintendent Division of Safety and Hygiene, State of Ohio.

WAGE CUTS OPPOSED BY PRESIDENT GREEN

Washington, March 28.—Wage cuts will be resisted by organized labor, declared President Green in a statement that calls attention to the disastrous effect that these reductions have on the people as a whole.

"Wage reductions delay return of prosperity," said Mr. Green. "Economic conditions will improve when the people are employed at high wages. Lower rates are encouraged by a few bankers and some employers whose desire for standard profits has overcome their better judgment.

"It is only through the development of the purchasing power of working people to the highest possible point that a return to prosperity for the goods which, through the establishment of mechanical processes, we are producing in an ever increasing volume.

"The A. F. of L. has kept faith with the good employers and employers who have kept existing wage standards. We promise to serve, so far as possible, in the maintenance of industrial peace.

"Prosperity and high wages are inseparably associated, while unemployment and economic distress are characteristic of low wages.

"We shall fight against a low-wage policy with all the strength we possess. We shall rely upon those who believe that a speedy return to prosperity, through the payment of high wages, to stand with us."

TRUCKING BUSINESS DONE BY RAILROADS

St. Louis, Mo., March 28.—Eleven Southwestern railroads will apply to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to operate a door-to-door freight service on their own bills of lading.

This action indicates that the railroads are preparing to challenge auto truck competition. A few railroads have been operating truck and bus lines through subsidiary companies, but practically none have entered this business in a large way.

The Southwestern carriers' plan provides for pick-up and delivery service at both ends at no additional cost over present rates within a 300-mile area.

PENSION LAW URGED

Harrisburg, Pa., March 28.—A State constitutional amendment providing for the payment of old age pensions was introduced in the legislature by Senator Harris. The proposal also includes pensions to widowed mothers.